

VIEWPOINT

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Rants & Raves

Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at brevnews@hometownnewsol.com or call (321) 242-1276.

Callers are asked to refrain from making slanderous statements.

Bus riders with no shelter

I have been a public transportation user all my life. Luckily, now I am the proud owner of a car.

Whenever I drive along Wickham Road and neighborhood, I can't help but to feel extremely sorry for all those wonderful people waiting for the bus to come.

Most often, they are coming from work, eager to get home where many other chores await. I find it quite upsetting to see people of all ages sitting in the grass, on the walkway, on their jackets, etc., as they are waiting.

In most cases, there is no shelter at all. So, they are horribly exposed to all kinds of weathers: 95 degrees, thunderstorms and tremendous rain showers. This has to end!

I am sure, that the reasons why people don't have cars is basically financially based.

For many years in my life, I didn't have enough money for a car and the

hideous insurance one has to pay.

I really think that this is a social class issue. The better off people of Viera, Suntree, etc., don't use busses. They, we, are very privileged.

Is there really no money left to put up some benches and shelter?!

Why is all this happening?

I see our country is really offline on many issues that are out of hand: riots, police abuse to people, the computer issue of scams and cons and the issue of viruses cost, men who want to marry men, women who marry woman – the Supreme Court is making that legal now – people shooting people in the movie house at stores inside or out, the elderly getting robbed, the several credit issue climbing and our government playing the games of contracts and agreements with countries that hate us.

Then we have the ISIS problem, the illegals coming here and every day it just gets worse.

Many people, under severe stress while rich churches shows no care but to get the money out of poor people like me. They even conned me and after five years of trying very hard to reduce my debt. I am in a hole with no latter to climb out, and I get only disability income and it is not enough.

America is offline and I don't even know this country the way is was. I know of honor, respect and dignity to where at one time long ago when a person on our block needed help, two blocks of people would gather to help. That is gone now. Food prices are going high, and taxes are being raised on homeowners; and the land they are on stays the same.

People who rent are not paying rent and the owner has to pay to get them out, which puts more pressure on the

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Honoring patriots



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Master of Ceremonies Joe Gassman of Melbourne delivers a message to the crowd during the '9/11 Patriot's Day Celebration – Our American Hero Campaign' Friday, Sept. 11 at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Indialantic.

Keeping seniors aware

Dear Friends,

Recently, I spoke to a large group of retirees. After the meeting, several of the attendees asked for my business card. My talk made them aware that they could be eligible for Veterans Aid and Attendance since their spouses served in World War II or Korea.

This benefit (about \$1,400 a month), can make a huge difference in the life of a low-income senior.

Not all retired military personnel qualify: you must apply and meet certain eligibility criteria. To ascertain these qualifications, contact the Brevard Veteran's Services Office at (321) 633-2012.

This is only one example of the many benefits to which qualified seniors are entitled. We have 67,000 veterans in Brevard and countless thousands who are eligible for military benefits, but do not know it.

For a person living on \$700 a month and food stamps, the Veterans Aid and Attendance can certainly



**PRESIDENT,
HELPING SENIORS
OF BREVARD**
JOE STECKLER

lead to a better life – one made easier through new funding sources not previously known. This then becomes a very valid reason for senior awareness programs such as those sponsored by Helping Seniors.

Currently, we have a radio show on WMEL AM 1060 at 1 p.m. every Thursday. Television shows appear Monday through Friday on Space Coast Government channel 499 at 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m., and on Bright House Networks channel 49 at 7 p.m. on Monday, 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

A monthly printed column appears in Hometown News, Spotlight Magazine, Senior Scene Magazine, Ebony News Today, and soon, the

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Phone (321) 242-1013 Fax (321) 242-1281

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Rants & Raves (321) 242-1276

Circulation Inquiries 1-866-913-6397

circulation@hometownnewsol.com



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MELBOURNE

Seniors

From page 6

bilingual newspaper, Al Dia Today. You can also find our media programs archived online at www.HelpingSeniorsOfBrevard.org.

Consider for a moment the value of Helping Seniors media outreach to the senior population and those who care for them in Brevard. Now, consider the many new benefits that could accrue to those in need if we all worked together to spread information to our neighbors, friends, family and co-workers.

In this same way, people of all countries have used word-of-mouth to pass down stories and informa-

tion through countless generations. Brevard County is home to many elder care programs such as Aging Matters, adult daycares, in-home care providers and others that help seniors age with dignity and provide respite for caregivers.

These program exist, but must be researched and promoted by all so that more people can know about and access these valuable services.

One starting place for information is by contacting Helping Seniors of Brevard at (321) 473-7770 or info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org.

Joe Steckler is the president of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a non-profit organization designed to advocate, educate and fundraise on behalf of Brevard's senior citizens.

Rants

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owner. My owner is under pressure, and because of what happened to me, the owner was willing to reduce my rent so I have a home to live in here in Florida, while the owner is in New York is under more pressure than myself! Why is this all happening?

What happened to the word "care" or "honor" or "dignity" or "respect?" Even the veterans are being treated badly, and that military situation is also offline. They now allow people who were not allowed in the service

years ago.

Why this drastic change and how long this will continue before everything goes so bad that even being safe in your own home is a risk of break-ins and rape and death of children, men and women alike?

I say this, I see it that our future is bleak and dark, and I really believe it won't get better.

More and more people are showing up at soup kitchens than before just to eat and bring some food home.

I say to you who reads this message to be prepared! For the situation, no matter who the president is will be worse for we did not stop what

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Hometown News PET OF THE WEEK

A 15-year-old domestic short hair tuxedo cat, 'Charlie' is the musical pet of Alyce Greer of Melbourne Beach. When he's not playing piano, Charlie has been known to steal pens right out of his mom's hands while she's using them and taking naps on the keyboard while his mom is on the computer.

Is your pet worthy of the spotlight?

Hometown News will be the judge of that.

We are asking our readers to submit photos of their beloved pets, as part of our "Pet of the Week" Contest. The winner for the week will have his or her pet displayed in our newspaper, while also being qualified to become the Hometown News "Pet of the Year!" Email a photo of your pet (one entry per owner) that is at least 1 MB in size to brevnews@hometownnewsol.com. Write "PET OF THE WEEK CONTEST" in the subject line, and in the body of the email, please include the following information:

- Name of pet
- Age
- Breed
- Three of your pet's favorite things to do
- Pet owner's full name and hometown
- Phone number (in case we have questions)

Sometimes life holds an endless list of challenges, until you discover an **ABUNDANCE** of SOLUTIONS.

If you have questions about senior living, we have answers. We'll share with you information on your many options and offer a helping hand to assist you on your journey.

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For more information or to schedule a complimentary meal for two, call the community nearest you.

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